

REGULAR MEETING OF THE KOOCHICHING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 9:45 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Pavleck, Sjoblom, Skoe, Murray, Adee
MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kathy LaFrance, Mark Lessard, Jon Froemke, Trent Nicholson,
Nathan Heibel, Matt Gouin

2021/03-01 Motion by Murray, seconded by Skoe to approve the agenda with additions and deletions. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

000 Kathy LaFrance, Public Health and Human Services Director informed the Board about the most recent COVID-19 statistics in the County noting that new case numbers are leveling off and their focus has turned to vaccinations. There have been 2,848 first doses administered to County residents with 1,498 having completed the series. This week on Monday 189 doses were given and on Tuesday an additional 54 doses administered however, they have a reduced vaccine availability. Approximately 66% of residents 65+ have been vaccinated which is very close to the goal of 70% and it is expected they will be moving to the next tier by the end of the week which is about three weeks ahead of schedule. Further information on the next priority tier can be found in a recent article in The Journal or on the Minnesota Department of Health website. Board member inquired if children could contract COVID-19 and if children are eligible for the vaccine. The Board was informed the Pfizer vaccine has been approved for children between the age of 16 – 18 and there have been many cases of children contracting COVID-19.

2021/03-02 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Skoe to approve the minutes from the February 23, 2021 regular meeting. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/03-03 Motion by Adee, seconded by Skoe to approve the February summarized vendor payment listing, approve February payroll and payroll ACH payments in the amount of \$1,146,401.23, approve Courthouse claims in the amount of \$64,581.24 and approve Highway claims in the amount of \$25,846. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/03-04 Motion by Adee, seconded by Skoe to approve the void of warrant #33509 in the amount of \$318.86. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/03-05 Motion by Adee, seconded by Skoe to accept donations from Alton and Linda Shannon in the amount of \$1,000 and the Bronco Football Boosters in the amount of \$2,000 to be used for the Veteran's Transportation Program. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/03-06 Motion by Skoe, seconded by Murray to approve COVID-19 Business Relief grant awards to area businesses and nonprofits in the amount of \$250,000 as presented and recommended by the grant committee. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

000 The Administration Director provided a 2020 year end budget to actual financial report.

2021/03-07 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Adee to approve the employment separation of Pete Kalar, E911/Jail Administrator effective May 17, 2021 and approve filling the vacant position. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/03-08 Motion by Murray, seconded by Pavleck to approve the employment separation of Terry Rautiola, Heavy Equipment Operator effective March 15, 2021 and approve filling the vacant position. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

000 Notice of temporary hire of Dale Olson as consultant for the Environmental Services Department effective February 17, 2021 per the Temporary Hire Policy.

2021/03-09 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Adee to approve changing the time of the March 23, 2021 Board meeting from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/03-10 Motion by Murray, seconded by Pavleck to schedule a public hearing on May 11, 2021 at 6:00 at the Backus/AB Community Center Auditorium for the purpose of receiving public comment regarding the 2nd Amendment Dedicated County Petition. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/03-11 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Murray to adopt the following resolution in support of the Reconstruction of Runway 13/31 Phase 3 Project at the Falls International Airport:

**RESOLUTION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL FALLS-KOOCHICHING COUNTY AIRPORT
COMMISSION FOR
FUNDING FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF RUNWAY 13/31 PHASE 3 PROJECT
AT THE FALLS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

WHEREAS, the City of International Falls and County of Koochiching (operating in a joint powers agreement as the International Falls-Koochiching County Airport Commission) are political subdivisions/local government units of Minnesota organized and operating under the laws of State of Minnesota: and

WHEREAS, the International Falls-Koochiching County Airport Commission (hereafter known as the “Commission”) has been working to construct a new taxiway and runway; and

WHEREAS, the City of International Falls and County of Koochiching as a joint powers unit have owned, maintained, and operated the Falls International Airport for 55 years; and

WHEREAS, the International Falls-Koochiching County Airport Commission is receiving funding from the FAA and others to cover the match for this project,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of International Falls and County of Koochiching hereby supports this Project and the Bonding Bill Request to help fund said project and that the International Falls-Koochiching County Airport Commission will comply with all applicable laws and requirements as stated in the Bonding Bill agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor of International Falls and Chair of Koochiching County are hereby authorized to submit an application to the office of the Minnesota Management and Budget for the 2020 Capital Budget Bonding Request and execute all documents, agreements and applications which may result from this funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of International Falls and County of Koochiching hereby assures that this project, upon completion, will be properly maintained. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/03-12 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Skoe to authorize the Koochiching Economic Development Authority to submit a joint grant application with the City of International Falls in the amount of \$150,000 to the USDA for the Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training grant with the County as the fiscal agent and further to authorize matching funds up to 10% of the grant award. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/03-13 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Murray to close the County Board meeting to the public at 10:15 a.m. under Attorney-Client Privilege to discuss a pending tax court settlement proposal. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

000 Attending the Closed session included Commissioners Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray, County Assessor Len Peterson, County Attorney Jeff Naglosky and Administration Director Jenny Herman.

2021/03-14 Motion by Adee, seconded by Pavleck to reopen the County Board meeting to the public at 11:15 a.m. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/03-15 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Murray to approve the County Assessor's offer of \$559,000 to settle tax court lawsuit 36-CV-19-191 with LSREF4 Bison, LLC for PID#92-018-00012. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/03-16 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Adee to award the low bid for two new squad trucks to Dodge of Burnsville in the amount of \$28,669 for each new squad less \$26,500 for two squad trade ins for a total price of \$30,838. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/03-17 Motion by Skoe, seconded by Pavleck to authorize the use of Consolidated Conservation funds and award the low bid for the construction of a 20 x 20 addition to the existing Birchdale Community Building to Tony Zook Construction up to an amount of \$47,160 as budgeted in 2021 and requested from the River Valley Development Association. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/03-18 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Skoe to authorize the Land Commissioner to reschedule the previously postponed February 3, 2021 timber auction to Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Big Falls Community Building. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/03-19 Motion by Skoe, seconded by Pavleck to authorize the Highway Department to seek quotes for the removal of underground storage tanks at the Mizpah and Littlefork highway garages and replace the Littlefork with an above ground storage tank. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/03-20 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Skoe to authorize the Highway Department to seek quotes for hired trucks, propane delivery and nuisance beaver services. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/03-21 Motion by Murray, seconded by Adee to authorize the Highway Department to advertise for bids for Project CP 2021-01, CSAH 5 and CSAH 32 crack seal and mastic repair. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/03-22 Motion by Skoe, seconded by Pavleck to authorize the Highway Department to advertise for bids for CP 2021-02 for striping. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/03-23 Motion by Skoe, seconded by Pavleck to approve the agreement between Minnesota Geological Survey and Koochiching County for the purpose of creating a geologic atlas of Koochiching County and further to authorize the Board Chair's signature to the agreement. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/03-24 Motion by Adee, seconded by Murray to approve amendment No. 7 to the June 1, 2017 Agreement for Professional Services between Koochiching County and Short Elliot Hendrickson, Inc. to provide additional Island View Sewer Project engineering consultation services. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/03-25 Motion by Murray, seconded by Adee to authorize the Environmental Services Director to engage Environmental Financial Group, Inc. on an hourly basis for professional consultation services to analyze the financial data and provide assessments in support of the Island View Sanitary Sewer Project. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

000 The Board Chair called for public comment and Veteran Service Officer Mark Lessard informed the Board that "Coffee with the Vets" will be held on March 11th from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the VFW and reminded the Board that Vietnam Veterans Day is on March 29th.

2021/03-26 Motion by Adee, seconded by Murray to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.